

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 408

FOR BROWN, EA/ROC
FOR BENGELSDORF, OES/NET
FOR BORIGHT, ACDA
FOR SIEVERING, ERDA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TW
SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR TEAM VISIT TO ROC

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 0487, (B) TAIPEI 409

1. NUCLEAR TEAM SHARES ROMETSCH'S CONCERN, EXPRESSED REFTEL, ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INER AND THE ADJACENT CHUNG SHAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CIST) REFERRED TO BY ROMETSCH AS MILITARY RESEARCH FACILITY. FOR BACKGROUND, INER WAS ORIGINALLY THE ATOMIC PHYSICS DIVISION OF CIST AND WAS SPLIT OFF AS A SEPARATE INSTITUTE IN THE LATE SIXTIES. HOWEVER, A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED, ESPECIALLY IN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, BETWEEN THE TWO INSTITUTES AND ADMIRAL HSIA, NOW THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CIST, CONTINUED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR (TRR) THROUGH ITS COMPLETION. THIS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED ON THE BASIS THAT INER DID NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SUCH AS TRR. AS A RESULT OF THIS CLOSE INTER-RELATIONSHIP, NUCLEAR TEAM REQUESTED VISIT TO CIST TO
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REVIEW NUCLEAR RELATED ACTIVITIES. ON 20 JANUARY TEAM VISITED CIST AND MET WITH GEN. TANG CHUN-PO, PRESIDENT, (ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL), ADMIRAL HSIA HSING, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL STAFF. AFTER BRIEFING BY CIST ON THEIR ORGANIZATION, STAFFING AND PROGRAM, TEAM LEADER LEVIN COMMENTED ON THE INCREASING CONCERNS IN THE U.S. ABOUT THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE THREAT REPRESENTED BY THE SPREAD

OF WEAPONS USEABLE MATERIAL AND THE TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE THEM AROUND THE WORLD. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. POLICY WAS BECOMING MORE STRINGENT IN THIS REGARD IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN PROBLEMS IN US-ROC COOPERATION.

2. IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, ADMIRAL HSIA ADMITTED THAT THE TWO INSTITUTES SHARED COMMON LIBRARY, COMPUTER, TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL FACILITIES. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT CIST PROVIDES SUPPORT TO INER FOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS SUPPORT WAS PRIMARILY FOR NON-SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES SINCE CIST DID NOT HAVE THE SPECIAL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THESE COMMENTS OF ADMIRAL HSIA ARE IN CONTRAST TO REMARKS BY VICTOR GHENG TO U.S. OFFICIALS OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS WHICH HAVE EMPHASIZED THE INCREASING SEPARATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE TWO INSTITUTES.

3. FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION, THE TEAM TOURED THE LIBRARY, COMPUTER FACILITY, MACHINE SHOPS OF THE ELECTRONIC AND ROCKETRY SECTIONS AND CERTAIN PARTS OF THE ELECTRONIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES. AT THIS TIME, TEAM CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY BASIS FOR REQUESTING VISITS TO OTHER CIST FACILITIES.

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